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--688. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 686, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.--

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--689. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.--

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--690. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner. --

AMENDMENT OF THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows:

--An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprises a housing; a first set of programmable data input ports, which is provided through the exterior of the housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from the one or more of object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein the object identification data generating source is disposed external to the housing; a second set of programmable data input ports which is provided through the exterior of the housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and is capable of receiving object attribute data elements from one or more object attribute data generating sources using the networking protocol; and a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism, which is provided in operable association with the first and second programmable data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to the data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.--